

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 remain pending in the application, with claims 13-19 and 32-38 being withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47 over Bunney

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bunney et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,446,112 (“Bunney”), with claims 12, 31 and 50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bunney. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-5, 9, 12, 20-24, 28, 31, 39-43, 47 and 50 recite a method and apparatus utilizing a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device.

Bunney appears to disclose a network comprising at least one server and a plurality of user terminals, wherein the user terminals can communicate with each other by means of an IRC server (Abstract). Bunney’s purpose is to translate a non-compliant IRC address to a compliant protocol IRC code with a maximum length of nine characters to extend the capabilities of existing nine character protocol systems (Abstract). Bunney discloses such a protocol conversion for a server hardwired to user terminals through an Internet network (Bunney, col. 5, lines 15-17; Fig. 1, 2 and 5).

The Office Action alleges that Bunney discloses a mobile chat proxy server as item 20 of Fig. 5. However, none of the components within Bunney are mobile and wireless devices. Bunney fails to disclose any of a mobile chat proxy server, a wireless gateway server and a mobile device, much less in the configuration of a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as recited by claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47.

Moreover, Bunney has limited relativity to the Applicants’ invention in that both have application to IRC. However, Bunney’s IRC server 40 and chat

proxy server 1 are disclosed as for use in a hardwired system. Bunney fails to suggest application of any of the disclosure to mobile and wireless components and systems, as recited by claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47.

Bunney fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus utilizing a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as recited by claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47.

A benefit results from placing a mobile chat proxy server between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server, e.g., efficient transfer of data. A mobile chat proxy server can integrate the components within a communication path by serving as a proxy between a wireless Internet gateway and a standard IRC server. The mobile chat proxy server enables a rich client application for an otherwise “incompatible” or limited capacity device (such as a wireless handset). Such a benefit is not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-5, 9, 20-24, 28, 39-43 and 47 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50 over Burgan in view of Bunney and WebTV

In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Burgan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,459,892 (“Burgan”) in view of Bunney, and further in view of WebTV to IRC Proxy debuts on SorceryNet, USENET posting in atl.online-service.webtv 10/18/1999 (“WebTV”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As WebTV is sourced from the Internet, there is no way to verify the source and date of the publication. As such any rejection relying on WebTV is an improper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However, to further prosecution Applicants herein respond to WebTV.

Claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50 recite a method and apparatus utilizing a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard

Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device.

Burgan appears to disclose a wireless communication system that includes a system controller, a chat server and a plurality of wireless communication devices (Abstract; Fig. 1). The chat server manages the communication of a plurality of chat discussions facilitating substantially real time communication among the plurality of wireless communication devices (Burgan, Abstract). The chat server receives a chat request and in response to such receipt, sends a chat response (Burgan, col. 3, lines 65-66). The chat request is communicated to the chat server via a server interface from a system controller and the chat response is communicated via the server interface to the system controller (Burgan, col. 3, line 67-col. 4, line 3). The system controller then routes the chat response to the requesting device which may be a message input device such as a telephone, a computer, a desktop messaging unit or an individual or wireless communication device (Burgan, col. 4, lines 4-10).

Although Burgan discloses chat functions between wireless devices, the relativity to Applicants' invention stops there. All of the chat functions must occur within the wireless network. Burgan fails to even mention the Internet. Burgan fails to disclose or suggest a mobile chat proxy server connected to a standard Internet Relay Chat server, much less a method and apparatus utilizing a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as recited by claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50.

The Examiner acknowledges that Burgan fails to disclose a mobile chat proxy server connected to a standard Internet Relay Chat server (Office Action, page 5). The Office Action relies on Bunney and WebTV to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Burgan to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Bunney has limited relativity to the Applicants' invention in that both have application to IRC. However, Bunney's IRC server 40, and a chat proxy server 1 are disclosed as for use in a hardwired system. Bunney fails to suggest application of any of the disclosure to mobile and

wireless devices, much less a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as recited by claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50.

WebTV appears to disclose a method of allowing WebTV subscribers access to an IRC network. An IRC proxy, SorceryNet, converts user commands to appropriate IRCD commands.

WebTV, as discussed above with Bunney, is a hardwired Internet connection. WebTV's only relevancy to Applicants' invention is that they both have application to IRC. However, the similarity stops there. Applicants' invention is directed toward mobile and wireless devices, NOT a device that is attached to a television that dials-up the Internet. WebTV fails to disclose or suggest application to mobile and wireless devices, much less a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as recited by claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50.

Moreover, modifying Burgan, a wireless chat system, with Bunney and WebTV, hardwired chat systems, is non-sensical. Any modification of Burgan with components from Bunney and WebTV would most likely leave Burgan non-functional. Modifying a wireless system with components from a wired system would result in a system trying to operate with components NOT designed for that environment, most likely leaving the entire system inoperable.

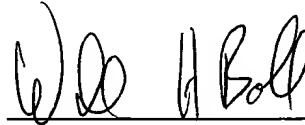
Neither Burgan Bunney nor WebTV (even if it were a proper reference), either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a mobile chat proxy server in a communication path between a standard Internet Relay Chat server and a wireless gateway server supporting a mobile device, as claimed by claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-12, 20-31 and 39-50 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W H Bollman', written over a horizontal line.

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